

Good Afternoon, Chairwoman Senator Catherine Olsten, Co-Chair Representative Phillip Miller and Planning and Development Committee Members.

I am here to give testimony in support of **HB5886: An Act Prohibiting Municipal Employees From Serving On Certain Municipal Legislative Bodies.**

I am Marilyn Moore, State Senator for the 22nd District representing Trumbull, Bridgeport and Monroe. Thank you for holding this hearing on HB5886.

As cosponsor of this bill with Representative Jack Hennessey, we are requesting that a subsection of section 7-421 of the general statutes be amended to prohibit municipal employees from serving on the legislative body of a municipality if such legislative body has the responsibilities and authority of a board of finance and if such prohibition is set forth in the municipality.

HB5886 would only affect municipalities that do not have a Board of Finance. Currently, there are 24 municipalities in that category.

We are experiencing an incestuous situation in Bridgeport as the members of an elected body have governance of their own finances. At one time there was a separate governing body of Taxation and Apportionment; those responsibilities are now governed by the city council some who are employees of the city. This means we have elected officials who are employed by the city overseeing matters that of self-interest.

People on a municipal payroll should not be making decisions about their own budgets and their salaries. This legislation is aimed at closing the loophole in state statute that the Bridgeport City Attorney has sought to use to ignore this conflict of interest.

The only argument that I have heard against this bill is that everyone has a right to serve in an elected position. And I agree, but I note that there are many ways to serve and give back to the city. Those who truly care about the city and good government should step back, be altruistic in their view and desires and consider the greater good

Bridgeport has been tainted by corruption. Allowing this legislation to move to a vote by both the House and Senate would begin to strengthen the confidence of our residents, businesses, and future leaders that Bridgeport is eager to regain its reputation as one who is honest and respectful of the laws that govern it.

This bill came before this body and received full support in the House. My commitment to the residents of the City of Bridgeport is to bring this bill to the Senate for a vote. I urge this committee to close this loophole and support HB5886.

Respectfully Submitted,
Senator Marilyn Moore, 22nd District